

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9025

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KREISKY, BRUNO) AU

SUBJECT: KREISKY VISIT TO US: ISSUES PAPER: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

FOR EUR/CE - BRUCE FLATIN

REF: VIENNA 8873

1. AUSTRIAN POSITION: CHANCELLOR KREISKY IS OF VIEW THAT FATE OF EUROPE, PARTICULARLY WESTERN EUROPE, IS CLOSELY INTERWOVEN WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN COUNTRIES ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE HAS CITED IN THIS CONNECTION SUCH IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS AS POWER POLITICS, ENERGY, TRADE AND MONETARY AFFAIRS.

2. AUSTRIA WAS CHAGRINED OVER THE INDECISIVE POSTURE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE EC, DURING THE OIL EMBARGO AND KREISKY HIMSELF HAS ENCOURAGED MORE POSITIVE ACTION BY WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TOWARD MAKING A HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION IN RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST CONTROVERSY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE AUSTRIANS ARE WELL AWARE OF THEIR OWN MAJOR LIMITATIONS IN THIS REGARD; WHERE POSSIBLE, THEY HAVE TRIED TO EXTEND QUIET SUPPORT TO US EFFORTS ON SUBSTANCE WHILE OPTICALLY ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN A
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MIDDLE, MORE NEUTRAL COURSE. IN SUPPORT OF SUCH EFFORTS,

AUSTRIA CONTRIBUTED MILITARY UNITS TO UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES ON CYPRUS AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, LARGELY ON KREISKY'S INITIATIVE, HAS GIVEN INCREASED ATTENTION TO MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. KREISKY HIMSELF HEADED A "FACT-FINDING MISSION" IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND REPORTEDLY WILL LEAD ANOTHER SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST BEGINNING NOV. 17. THE ANNOUNCED TWO-FOLD PURPOSE OF THESE MISSIONS IS (1) TO GENERATE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND (2) TO ESTABLISH INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH "ARAB SOCIALISTS", THEREBY HOPEFULLY TO HAVE A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THEIR THINKING AND ACTIONS. AUSTRIA HAS ALSO BEEN CULTIVATING CLOSER BILATERAL TIES WITH COUNTRIES IN THE NEAR EAST AREA, PARTICULARLY OIL OR NATURAL GAS PRODUCING STATES SUCH AS IRAN AND IRAQ AS WELL AS ALGERIA. HUMB

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